Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete paragraphs **[0018]** through **[0022]**. Please amend paragraphs **[0012]**, **[0013]**, **[0014]**, **[0017]**, **[0042]**, **[0043]**, and **[0044]**. Please add new paragraph **[0000]** on page 1 before the existing paragraph **[0001]**, subheading "Field of Invention," and heading "BACKGROUND", and new paragraphs **[0018A] and [0019A]** after amended paragraph **[0018]** as shown below.

[0000] (New) This is a continuation application that claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/195,560, filed July 16, 2002, which claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/822,510, filed April 2, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,441,589), both of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0012] (Amended) The present invention is a system and method for recharging secondary batteries. One embodiment of the present invention is a portable battery recharge station. The recharge station ~~comprises~~ includes a supervisory circuit~~,~~ and a voltage converter~~, a portable power source, and at least one holder that is adapted to receive a specific type of secondary battery of a portable device~~. The supervisory circuit is associated with a voltage requirement of a secondary battery. The voltage converter is in communication with the supervisory circuit. When the secondary battery is in contact with the supervisory circuit, the supervisory circuit instructs the voltage converter to supply a voltage to the secondary battery in accordance with the voltage requirement.

[0013] (Amended) ~~In this embodiment, when a secondary battery is placed in the holder, the supervisory circuit that is connected to the holder communicates with the voltage converter to supply an appropriate voltage required to recharge the secondary battery.~~ The voltage converter receives electrical power from ~~the~~ a portable power source. The voltage converter can convert the voltage of the ~~portable~~ power source up (i.e., increasing the voltage) or down (i.e., decreasing the voltage) as appropriate to recharge the secondary battery as instructed by the supervisory circuit.

[0014] (Amended) The ~~portable~~ power source of the portable battery recharge station can be one of several types of power sources. For example, the ~~portable~~ power source can be replaceable, rechargeable, or renewable. Replaceable power source can ~~comprise~~ include a primary battery. Examples of primary batteries are alkaline and zinc-air batteries. When a primary battery is depleted, it is removed from the portable battery recharge station and replaced by a fresh or new primary battery.

[0017] (Amended) ~~Preferably, the~~ A portable battery recharge station of the invention can include one or more holders that are configured to receive secondary batteries ~~has more than one holder~~. Each holder can be ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a specific type of secondary battery. For example, a first holder can be ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a Ni-Cd battery, a second holder can be ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a NiMH battery, a third holder can be ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a Li-ion battery, a fourth holder can be ~~adapted~~ configured to receive a Li-polymer battery, and so on. The holders must be designed to accommodate the physical dimensions of

the battery, as well as the placement of the contacts on the battery. Optionally, some of the battery holders may be modified with exchangeable plates designed to accommodate different battery dimensions and contact placements. The supervisory circuit connected to the holders can detect which holder or holders have received a secondary battery. The supervisory circuit can then inform the voltage converter to supply an appropriate voltage to each of the holders that has received a secondary battery. Of course, different batteries (e.g., a NiCd and a Li-ion battery) having the same dimensions could be used with the same holder, because the supervisory circuit can detect the appropriate voltage required for the battery.

[0018A](New) Another embodiment of the invention provides a battery charging system that includes a charging cord and a portable battery recharge station. The charging cord includes a programming resistor, a first end, and a second end. The first end of the charging cord is configured to mate with a device having a secondary battery. The a portable battery recharge station includes a voltage converter and a supervisory circuit. The portable battery recharge station is configured to receive the second end of the charging cord. When the charging cord is connected to the device and the portable battery recharge station, the supervisory circuit determines a voltage requirement of the secondary battery based on a resistance value of the programming resistor, the supervisory circuit then instructs the voltage converter to supply a voltage to the secondary battery in accordance with the voltage requirement.

[0019A] (New) Another embodiment of the invention is a method for recharging secondary batteries. The method includes two steps. First, a voltage requirement of a secondary

battery is obtained. Second, a voltage converter is instructed to receive power from a power source, convert the power to meet the voltage requirement, and supply the converted power to the secondary battery.

[0042] (Amended) Methanol fuel cell 330 is connected to reservoir 332. ~~Optionally, reservoir~~ Reservoir 332 has an optional gauge 334~~, to measure~~ that measures the amount of methanol remaining in reservoir 332.

[0043] (Amended) Methanol fuel cell 330 converts chemical energy in methanol contained in reservoir 332 to ~~electric~~ electrical energy. The ~~electric~~ electrical energy is then used to recharge secondary battery 284. Secondary battery 284 can either be charged in or out of portable device 280. For example, secondary battery 284 can remain in portable device 280 and be charged through cord 270. Alternatively, secondary battery 284 can be taken out of portable device 280 and be placed in holder 140.

[0044] (Amended) As the chemical energy is converted to the ~~electric~~ electrical energy, the amount of methanol in reservoir 332 decreases. The level of methanol in reservoir 332 may be measured by optional gauge 334. For example, optional gauge 334 may comprise a clear, transparent window of reservoir 332. Through the transparent window, the level of methanol in reservoir 332 can be visually observed by a user. Alternatively, optional gauge 334 may be an electrical or mechanical means for providing an indication of the level of methanol in reservoir 332.